

IN THE CLAIMS: See the Listing of Claims. This listing will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comprehensive Office Action, a **Final Rejection**, with appreciation. Claims 20-40 remain under consideration. The Office maintains the previous claim rejection under 35 USC § 103(a). The previous rejection under 35 USC § 102(a) has been withdrawn.

Claims 20-24, 29-32, 37, and 38 remain rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for obviousness based on Lodato (US Patent No. 5,956,796) in view of Switzerland 180027. The Office notes that the previously submitted arguments have been fully considered but were not found to be persuasive. The Office also indicates that Claims 27 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With the instant Amendment, Claims 27 and 28 have been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of Claims 20 and 22, from which claims they previously depended. Moreover, new Claims 41-46 (dependent on Claim 27) and 47-52 (dependent of Claim 28), which correspond to previously presented Claims 21, 23, 24, and 33-35, respectively, have also been added. The remaining claims have been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

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Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of

assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

By: 
G. PATRICK SAGE

Dated: September 12, 2005
Customer No.: 25,666
Seventh Floor, Kalamazoo Building
107 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 382-0030

Enclosure: Listing of Claims; Fee for One (1) Month Extension; and Postal Card Receipt

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.